

September 1st, 2010

**Special points of interest:**

- Back to School Safety
- Apex Fire Department Car seat Checking Station
- Alive at 25
- Portable Property
- Halloween Safety
- Distracted Driving
- Code Red
- Torch Run Update
- National Night Out
- Upcoming Events

**Inside this issue:**

iPod/Gadget Theft 2

Halloween Safety 2

Distracted Driving 3

Town of Apex Code Red System 3

Annual Torch Run 4

Golf Tournament News

National Night Out 4

# Crime Prevention

## Back to School

Youth across the nation have returned to school. There's always a lot to think about at the beginning of a new school year, but make sure you take some time to think about the safety of those around you. Here are a few check lists to keep in mind:



**BACKPACK SAFETY:**

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back.
- Pack light. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the your child's body weight.
- Always use both shoulder straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles.
- Consider a rolling backpack. This type of backpack may be a good choice for students who must tote a heavy load.

### School Bus Safety

- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Do not move around on the bus.
- Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street.
- Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.
- Children should always board and exit the bus at locations that provide safe access to the bus or to the school building.
- No horseplay at the bus stop (Play fighting, throwing stones, placing objects in the road)

Health and safety tips are from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).



## Apex Fire Department Car Seat Checking Station

During the 2010 CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY (CPS) WEEK, parents and caregivers are urged to verify that their child safety seats are properly installed and correctly used.

Apex Fire Department will partner with Kohl's of Apex on September 25th 2010 to provide residents a car seat checking station. The event will be from 10 am until 2 pm in the parking lot of Kohl's.

Certified technicians will be available to inspect and verify - free of charge - your child seat installation. Click HERE to find the inspection station nearest you.



## Traffic Safety for Teens



For More information on upcoming classes contact Sergeant Mark Flaughter at Mark.flaughter@apexnc.org or phone 919-249-1142



“Keep all of your electronic devices (GPS units, Cell Phones, MP3 Players) locked up & out of sight”



## Back to school IPOD/Gadget Theft Warnings and Tips

### How To Prevent Theft

It's unfortunate, but some people steal. Yet protecting your portable property doesn't mean you can't have it with you or enjoy it. It does mean taking steps to ensure that this property is carefully watched or secured at all times. Here are some approaches that will help keep you from being a victim of property crime.

### Don't Bring Valuables to School

If you don't absolutely need something during the school day, leave it at home. Keep only as much cash in your wallet or purse as you need in one day. Remember, most schools have an "at your own risk" policy when it comes to bringing money and expensive items to school and will take no responsibility for your losses.

### Avoid Calling Attention to Your Valuables

Playing cool ring tones on your cell phone might amuse your lunch buddies, but it can also mean unwanted attention from people around you who you don't know. If you listen to your portable music player on your way to and from school, tuck it in a pocket or keep it out of sight. And don't brag about how much your new basketball sneakers cost at the mall.

### Never Leave Your Valuables Unattended

Most items are stolen because they are left unattended. If you toss your backpack on a table while you get in the lunch line or leave it on the bench next to your gym locker, either your backpack or an item inside it may be missing when you return. If you must leave your belongings for a few minutes, ask a friend to watch them until you return.

### Secure Your Locker at all Times

Many students report that their belongings are stolen from lockers. Lockers can be broken into easily, especially if they are not properly closed. Make sure your locker is shut tightly at the top, in the middle, and at the bottom. Request a different one if it is not working properly. Always keep it locked and do not share your combination with anyone. Gym lockers are the most vulnerable to theft because they are often left unlocked, and changing rooms are usually not monitored by security cameras or guards.

Taken from "A Teenager's Guide to Protecting Portable Property". National Crime Prevention Council.

Click on picture for more tips.



## Halloween Safety

With the fall holidays rapidly approaching, it's that time of year again to watch out for ghosts and goblins running throughout our neighborhoods and streets.

Before children start out on their "trick or treat" rounds, parents should:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and never to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.
- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number in a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.

## Distracted Driving

**Distracted Driving** - including the use of cell phones - is a major contributor to automobile crashes. Between 4,000 and 8,000 crashes related to distracted driving occur daily in the United States. In a year, they contribute to as many as one-half of the 6 million U.S. crashes reported annually. AAA has worked out a ten-point plan to help address this issue. But the best advice is to avoid distractions whenever possible.

### Drive Safer, Talk Later

Driver distractions are nothing new. They've been a topic of discussion since windshield wipers were introduced in cars during the early 1900s. Using a cellular phone while driving can increase your chances of being involved in a crash. But research shows other distractions such as eating a sandwich, tending to small children, conversing with a passenger or gazing at objects outside the vehicle occur more frequently and can be just as distracting as talking on a cell phone.

Now, imagine the risks if you combine two or more of the above tasks!

## Code Red System

The Town of Apex has instituted the CodeRED Emergency Notification System - an ultra high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications. This system allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of the Town in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child or evacuation notices).

The system is capable of dialing 50,000 phone numbers per hour. It then delivers our recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number.

### THIS SYSTEM WILL ONLY BE USED FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES

Examples of times when the CodeRED system could be utilized:

- Drinking water contamination
- Utility outage
- Evacuation notice & route
- Missing person
- Fires or Floods
- Bomb threat
- Hostage situation
- Chemical spill or Gas leak

and other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential for life safety.



Click on the above link to sign up today!



“Between 4,000 and 8,000 crashes related to distracted driving occur daily in the United States.”





**APEX POLICE DEPARTMENT**

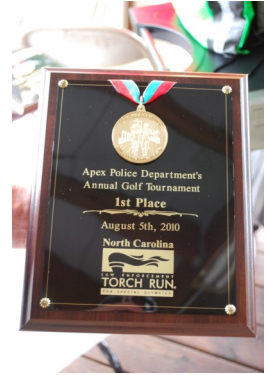
205 Saunders Street  
Apex, NC 27502

Phone: 919-362-8661  
Emergency: 911

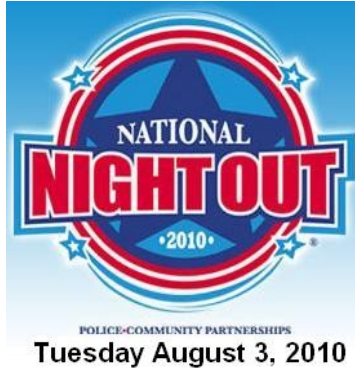


### Torch Run Golf Tournament

The Apex Police Department held its annual Torch Run Golf Tournament for NC Special Olympics on August 5th, 2010 at the Lochmere Golf Club in Cary. 25 teams battled for the title and raised a total of \$8,000 for NC Special Olympic Athletes. Thanks to everyone for supporting this worthwhile cause.



### National Night Out



The "27th Annual National Night Out" (NNO), is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), and was held on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at the Super Target in the Beaver Creek Shopping Center. Come out and catch us next year!

### Upcoming Events



September

- September 6 Labor Day
- September 18 Peak City Sound @ Town Campus 73 Hunter St ([Link](#))
- September 25 AFD Car Seat Check at Kohl's (Beaver Creek Commons) 10am-2pm

October

- October 3-9 Fire Prevention Week
- October 6 International Walk to School Day
- October 15 AHS Homecoming football game versus Holly Springs 7:30pm
- October 23 & 30 New Hope Valley Railway - Halloween Train Ride ([Link](#))

**Halloween**

November

- November 25 Thanksgiving

